

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
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R 090617Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8730
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECSTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 4643

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJECT: SITHOLE REJECTS QUALIFIED FRANCHISE FOR RHODESIA

1. SUMMARY: SEPT 8 " RAND DAILY MAIL" CARRIED ARTICLE
WRITTEN BY NDABANINGI SITHOLE IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED
PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE PRINCIPLE AND
QUERIED WHY BLACK RHODESIANS SHOULD ACCEPT ANY SETTLEMENT
OFFERING LESS THAN THE UNQUALIFIED FRANCHISE AS ENCOMPASSED
IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL.END SUMMARY.

2. COMPLETE TEXT FOLLOWS:

" PUPPETS AND STOOGES CAN'T HELP SMITH GET BY' " FOR THE
LAST 12 YEARS RHODESIA HAS BEEN BEDEVILLED BY A WAR WHICH IS
NOW ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF THE WHOLE WORLD. BOTH BLACKS
AND WHITES DESIRE TO HAVE A SETTLEMENT IN ORDER TO NORMALISE
THINGS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

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"SINCE THE CLOSE OF THE 1950S THE AFRICAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
PUTTING FORWARD AS THEIR BTTLE CRY THE SLOGAN " ONE MAN,
ONE VOTE." FOR THIS PRINCIPLE AFRICAN MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN
READY TO FIGHT, SUFFER AND EVEN TO DIE.

" ON SEPTEMBER 1 THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TEAM CONSISTING OF DR.
OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG RELEASED THE LONG-WAITED ANGLO-

AMERICAN PROPOSALS TO SETTLE RHODESIA'S 12-YEAR OLD STALEMATE.

" THE AFRICAN PEOPLE ARE DELIGHTED THAT ONE MAN, ONE VOTE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY BOTH THE US AND UK GOVERNMENTS. THIS TO MOST AFRICANS REPRESENTS A POLITICAL VICTORY THAT DELIGHTS BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, MALE AND FEMALE.

" THE AFRICAN PEOPLE REGARD THE FRANCHISE AS THE KEY TO THE PRESENT PROBLEM. THE PRESENT WAR CAN BE SIMPLY STATED AS ONE STEMMING FROM THE TENSION OR CONFLICT BETWEEN THE CLAIMS OF A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE AND THOSE OF AN UNQUALIFIED FRANCHISE -- ONE MAN, ONE VOTE. ON THE ONE HAND THE QUALIFIED FRANCHISE ADVANTAGES THE WHITE MINORITY BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, DISADVANTAGES THE BLACK MAJORITY.

" FOR THE LAST 12 YEARS THE RHODESIAN REGIME HAS TRIED TO MAINTAIN THE QUALIFIED FRANCHISE BY FORCE OF ARMS OR BY PREVENTING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS FROM WORKING, AND DURING THE SAME PERIOD THE AFRICAN GUERRILLA FORCES HAVE USED SIMILAR MEANS TO ESTABLISH AN UNQUALIFIED FRANCHISE FOR ALL SANE ADULTS.

" THE EMBODIMENT OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS IS THEREFORE REGARDED BY MOST AFRICAN AS THE MOST REALISTIC AND FAIREST APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM FACING THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

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" THE REAL PROBLEM FACING THIS COUNTRY IS ONE OF TRANSFERRING POWER FROM THE MINORITY TO THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF AFFECTING THIS-- NAMELY, BY WAR OR BY THE BALLOT BOX.

" THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE AFRICAN PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO SEE THAT POWER IS EFFECTIVELY TRANSFERRED TO THEM. THE ARMED STRUGGLE THEY EMBARKED UPON 12 YEARS AGO HAD THIS END IN VIEW: IN OTHER WORDS, WAS ASSUMED TO EFFECT THE POPULAT WILL.

1 THE PRINCIPLE OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE ENSHRINED IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS IS THEREFORE WELCOME TO THE AFRICAN PEOPLE BECAUSE IT HAPPILY COINCIDES WITH A VERY FUNDAMENTAL AFRICAN DEMAND FOR A DEVICE THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY TRANSFER POWER FROM THE WHITE MINORITY TO THE AFRICAN MAJORITY.

" WHAT THE ONE MAN, ONE VOTE FRANCHISE WOULD ACHIEVE IN THE FIRST PLACE WOULD BE TO GIVE POWER NOT TO A LEADER OF A GROUP OF LEADERS, OR TO APARTICULAR POLITICAL PARTY, BUT TO THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, AND IN TURN THE PEOPLE WOULD DELEGATE THIS POWER TO THE LEADER OR LEADERS OF THEIR OWN CHOICE. THIS IS THE GENIUS OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE.

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" THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH THE REJECTION OF ONE MAN, ONE VOTE CAN
BE REGARDED AS OPTING OUT FOR WAR OR FOR AN ESCALATION OF THE PRESENT

ARMED STRUGGLE. BUT AN ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PRINCIPLE CAN ALSO BE
REGARDED AS A PACKAGE DEAL OF RPEACE.

" THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS BROADLY COMMEND THEMSELVES TO THE
MAJORITY OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(1) THEY RECOGNISE THE LEGITIMATE DEMANDS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE
PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

(2) THEY GO TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER-- TRANSFER OF
POWER TO THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

(3) THEY PURPORT TO DO AWAY WITH THE ILLEGALITY WHICH HAS
BEEN LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT WAR RESULTING
IN LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY, AND IN UNNECESSARY HUMAN
SUFFERING.

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(4) THEY ARE BROADLY ACCEPTABLE NOT ONLY TO THE AFRICAN PEOPLE AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, BUT ALSO TO THE OAU AND THE UN, AND HENCE HOLD OUT BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR THIS COUNTRY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FROM WHICH SHE HAS BEEN ISOLATED FOR 12 YEARS. " THE DIFFICULTY THAT IS NOW BEING POSED TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS IS THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ON WHICH MR. IAN SMITH NOW WISHES TO EMBARK. " THE AFRICAN PEOPLE NOW QUESTION SERIOUSLY NOT ONLY THE WISDOM OF SUCH A MOVE BUT ALSO THE SINCERITY OF PURPOSE OF MR. SMITH IN THIS SECOND EXERCISE.

"WHAT IS HE UP TO NOW?" THEY ASK, AND THIS QUESTION IS CLEARLY LOADED WITH FEARFUL SUSPICION.

" THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED: " WHY DOES MR. SMITH REJECT THE PRESENT SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS IN LIEU OF HIS OWN? IS THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT NOT A TACTIC TO BUY MORE TIME AND DELAY THINGS FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS AS HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY DONE IN THE PAST?"

" THERE IS A STRONG FEELING AMONG AFRICAN PEOPLE THAT MR. SMITH IS NOW TRYING TO FRUSTRATE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WITH HIS INTERNAL SETTLEMENT TO WHICH HE HOPES TO INVITE AFRICAN NATIONALIST LEADERS OF HIS OWN CHOICE.

" CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY MR. SMITH WOULD APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT HE CAN HOLD HIS OWN WITH THE AID OF AFRICAN PUPPETS OR STOOGES. HE WOULD SEEM TO FORGET THAT NEITHER PUPPETRY NOR DEFIANCE OF POPULAR DEMANDS IS THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM THAT FACES THIS COUNTRY.

" WHAT USEFUL PURPOSE COULD BE SERVED BY MR. SMITH'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHEN THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE PRODUCED THE PRESENT PROPOSALS WHICH HOLD BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT? MOREOVER, THESE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE BASED ON WHAT THE VARIOUS PARTIES OF RHODESIA PUT FORWARD DURING THE TIME EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THEIR BEING PUT TOGETHER. (SIC)

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" ON THE WHOLE THE AFRICAN PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE ALREADY PREJUDICED AGAINST MR. SMITH'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. THEY FEEL THAT ANYONE WHO HAS THE TRUE INTEREST OF THIS COUNTRY AT HEART SHOULD ACCEPT THESE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

" THE PROBLEM WHICH HAS BEEN NOW DELIBERATELY CREATED BY MR. SMITH IS: ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS VERSUS SMITH'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. THE AFRICAN PEOPLE HAVE ACCEPTED THE FORMER BUT HAVE REJECTED THE LATTER." BOWDLER

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